

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE & FARMLAND PRESERVATION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 21, 2013**

Ms. Butch called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call

Present: (7) Butch, Kuczinski, Marra, Morelli, Romano, Schloss, Siedman

Absent: (4) Asprocolas, Blanco, Denardo, Kau

Public Comment Session: Ms. Butch opened the meeting to public comment at 7:41 pm. Ms. Maggie Romano was in attendance to discuss the 2013 Open Space Pace which will be held on Saturday, September 21st, at Freehold Raceway Park. Ms. Romano explained that the Open Space Pace planning committee would like to have a tractor display at this year's event and asked if the Open Space Council would like to have a display table at the event. There is no table fee for non-profit groups. Ms. Butch explained that the Millstone Day 2010 tractor display was coordinated by Mr. Dancer of the Agricultural Advisory Council and suggested that Ms. Romano contact Mr. Dancer. Ms. Butch further explained that the Millstone Day display was a coordinated effort among several groups including the Historic Commission, the Friends of Millstone Township Historic Registered Properties, the Shade Tree Commission, the Agricultural Advisory Council and the Open Space Council. Council members asked Ms. Romano to keep them apprised of the deadline for reserving a table. Ms. Romano thanked the Council and departed. Ms. Butch closed the public comment portion of the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve the January 8, 2013, minutes was made by Mr. Romano with a Second offered by Ms. Morelli. Roll call vote:

AYES: (6) Romano, Morelli, Butch, Kuczinski, Schloss, Siedman

NAYS: (0)

ABSTAIN: (0)

Correspondence: None.

Old Business

- **Trails:** Nothing new to report on the following trails:
 - *Industrial Park*
 - *White Birch Trail Grant*
 - *Doctor's Creek Trail Grant*

New Business

- **Stewardship of the Orchard Trails:** Extensive damage has been done to the orchard trails. Extensive damage has also been done to the Little League fields. The "No Motorized Vehicles" signs have been pulled out of the ground. ATV use has been witnessed with the activity occurring after school on weekdays and on weekends. Enforcement of the "No Motorized Vehicles" ordinance was discussed. The State Police have been notified of the illegal activity.

Events

- **Clambake:** Mr. Denardo is unable to chair the event this year. Mr. Romano volunteered to coordinate and chair the 2013 clambake. Ms. Butch will contact the

recreation department to reserve the Wagner Farm Park facility on Sunday, June 2nd with June 9th as an alternate date. The Secretary will send out sponsorship letters. Sponsorship levels and tickets will remain the same. Council members discussed the menu; last year there were a lot of clams leftover. Three types of clams were served: raw, roasted and steamed. Mr. Romano will contact Mr. Denardo regarding the seafood order and all clambake preparation details. Council members agreed to leave the menu the same and order less of whatever type of clam did not sell well last year. The ticket price will remain the same as last year: \$30 per adult ticket and \$10 per child ticket with a \$5.00 increase in the adult ticket price two weeks prior to the event.

Committee Reports

Finance: The 2013 Open Space Trust account activity report for the period January 1st through February 28th was distributed for review. Ms. Butch questioned insurance reimbursement deposits to the Trust for Hurricane Sandy damage to the Historic Church roof, the Baird House roof, the greenhouse at the Baird Homestead and the storage barn at Millstone Park. While the Clarksburg ME Church is not an open space property, it is an historic building and repairs in the past have been charged to the Open Space, Historic and Recreation Trust. Mr. Kuczinski will speak with the CFO to determine if separation of the insurance reimbursement is required. Council members also discussed the Council's temporary operating budget of \$500.00. Ms. Butch was concerned about funding for the newsletter in 2013. Mr. Kuczinski will contact the finance department regarding carrying over the 2012 operating funds for the newsletter that were not used.

Public Relations/Publications: Ms. Butch discussed potential articles for the newsletter including the Keep It Green campaign and a new funding source for preservation including a potential open space funding referendum question on November's ballot.

Legislative Awareness: Ms. Butch discussed the new farmland assessment legislation. The bill, sponsored by Senator Beck, has passed both the Senate and Assembly and is now on the Governor's desk for consideration. The bill revises the minimum qualification standards for farmland assessment and includes required farmland assessment education for tax assessors and reviews every three years. All property owners receiving farmland assessment still pay the full tax rate for all buildings on the property as well as the land under the home.

Stewardship/Monitoring: Ms. Siedman discussed stewardship of the Fredericks Trail off of Stage Coach Road. The trail easement is adjacent to Charleston Springs Golf Course and the County's property corners are well marked. There was a lot of tree damage from the storm but there was no evidence of dumping.

Review Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Applications: Nothing new to report.

At 8:33 pm a Motion was made by Ms. Schloss with a Second offered by Ms. Morelli and by unanimous vote the Council moved to executive session.

At 9:01 pm the Council returned to regular session. Having no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Siedman with a Second offered by Mr. Kuczinski and by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Maher, Council Secretary